



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION PEST PROGRAM

JAPANESE BEETLE STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #21.01 – APRIL 8, 2021

- [Cause for Concern](#)
- [Report Japanese Beetle](#)
- [Japanese Beetle Identification](#)
- [New Detections](#)
- [WSDA Response](#)
- [Japanese Beetle Webinars](#)
- [Report Japanese beetle sightings](#)
- [Stay Connected](#)

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Japanese beetles are highly invasive pests and a threat to more than 300 plants, including roses, grapes, apples, hops, and turf grass. The adult beetles damage plants by skeletonizing the foliage. Adults also feed on buds, flowers, and fruit on the plants.

Japanese beetle larvae are found in soil associated with the roots of host plants. They are common under turf or sod and can be moved from one location to another in potted plants, infested turf/sod, gardening soil, and yard waste.

If Japanese beetle were to become established in Washington, it would pose a serious threat to gardens, parks, and farms by destroying vegetation. Costly quarantines would also be established, making it increasingly difficult and expensive to move Washington agricultural products and even nursery plants within and outside of the state.



Melodie Smith, Grandview, 2020

REPORT JAPANESE BEETLE

WSDA needs residents and industry partners to help determine the spread of Japanese beetle. You can help by reporting potential sightings of both adult beetles and young grubs online, via email, or over the phone.

- agr.wa.gov/beetles
- PestProgram@agr.wa.gov
- 1-800-443-6684

JAPANESE BEETLE IDENTIFICATION

Adult JB

- Approximately 1/3 to 1/2 inch long
- Metallic green head and thorax with copper wing covers
- Sides of abdomen have five white patches of hairs
- Tip of abdomen has two patches of white hair
- Seen during the summer



Larva (grubs)

- White c-shaped grub with brown/tan head and visible legs
- From 1/8 inch to 1 inch long
- Seen during the spring

NEW DETECTIONS



Melodie Smith, Grandview, WA

In mid-July of 2020, a single dead Japanese beetle specimen was collected in a WSDA trap in Sunnyside near a Wal-Mart. After that detection, additional traps were deployed in the area. On Sept. 15, during trap takedown, two additional Japanese beetles were caught in a single trap at the Grandview Rose Garden.

On March 1, 2021 in a response to a WSDA social media post about Japanese beetle, a resident reported that Japanese beetles had devoured her roses the previous summer. The resident provided photos that showed numerous Japanese beetles on her rose plants. The resident further reported that she picked off as many as 75 beetles off her plants last year in one day.

WSDA RESPONSE

WSDA has been monitoring for Japanese beetles since the early 1980s. Every year, WSDA usually detects Japanese beetle at major Washington airports where the beetles “hitchhike” on cargo planes. In response to earlier detections, WSDA will be placing 400 traps in the Sunnyside and Grandview area this trapping season, as well as conducting outreach to encourage reporting of suspected sightings.

JAPANESE BEETLE WEBINARS

AG INDUSTRY JAPANESE BEETLE WEBINAR

Attend a Japanese beetle webinar specifically for the agriculture industry on **April 19, 10 -11 a.m. PST**. This destructive insect is a quarantinable pest and may affect commodities in Washington State. The webinar will include survey history, cover identification, share planned trapping information, and go into detail about potential effects to agricultural production and exports. Presenters will include WSDA’s Plant Protection Division staff. Use [this link](#) to attend the webinar.

HOMEOWNER WEBINAR

WSDA and WSU held a webinar informing homeowners about Japanese beetle. This video is available to [watch on YouTube](#).

STAY CONNECTED

WSDA is dedicated to working with the public to provide information on Japanese beetle.

View the [Pest Alert](#) for Japanese beetle.

- Join the [Japanese beetle Facebook group](#).
- Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).
- Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).